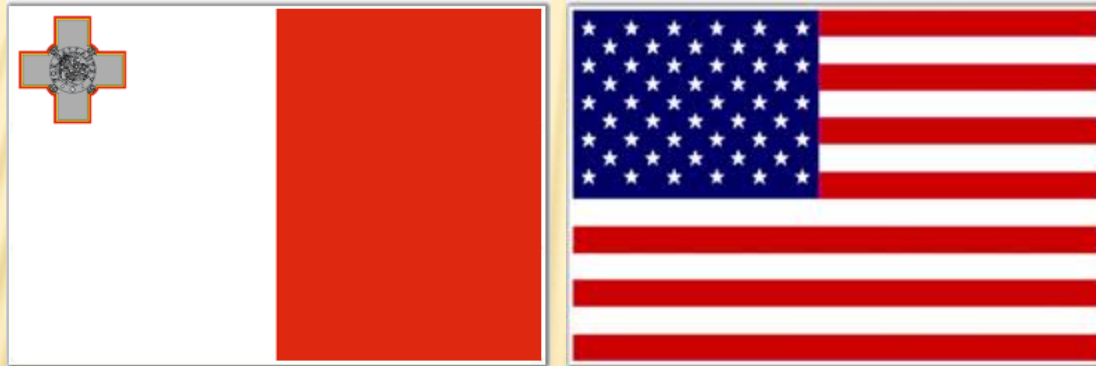


THE COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Finding the Right Fit



THE COLLEGE SEARCH: FINDING YOUR “FIT”

Steps for finding your fit:

1. Evaluate your academic profile

- Grades
- Test Scores

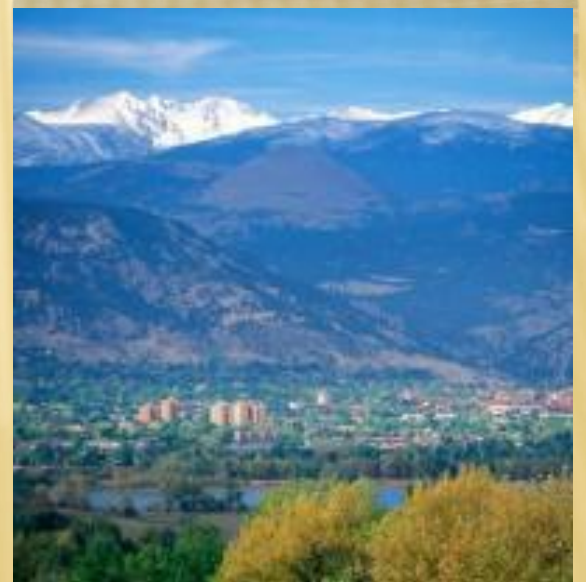
2. Consider how you will pay for college

- Will you need financial aid?
- Do you have support from parents, savings/loan or a sponsor?
- Are you going to rely primarily on government or external support?

STEPS CONTINUED.....

3. Identify your priorities

- **Location/Setting**
 - Geography in US
 - Urban, Suburban or Rural
 - Weather
 - **Size**
 - **Majors**
 - **Athletics**
 - **Facilities**
 - **Special Programs**
 - **Campus Life**
- Type of School:**
- Liberal Arts or Research
 - Public/Private
 - Community College, Technical School



FINDING YOUR “FIT” CONTINUED

4. Gather Information

- + Education USA/Fulbright Commissions
- + Your school counselor & teachers
- + College websites
- + Contact Admission offices
- + Connect with Alumni



5. Evaluate your choices

6. Decide Where to Apply

USEFUL WEBSITES & RESOURCES

- ✖ College Prowler
www.collegeprowler.com
- ✖ College Confidential
<http://talk.collegeconfidential.com>
- ✖ College Board – Big Future
<http://talk.collegeconfidential.com/>
- ✖ College Navigator
<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
- ✖ NACAC – Student & Parent Resources
<http://www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo/Pages/Default.aspx>



SOME TIPS FOR YOU

- ✗ Make a notebook or spreadsheet listing information about each college you're interested in & keep notes.
- ✗ Check student reviews on message boards/websites.
- ✗ Ask a lot of questions.



FUNDING & SCHOLARSHIPS

- ✗ Ask about university's scholarships for international students
 - Merit Based
 - Activities/Athletics
 - Financial Need
- ✗ External Scholarships
 - Based on nationality, gender, major of study, contests (writing, photography etc.), community service & more.....
- ✗ TIP: Some scholarships may require additional materials such as an application, recommendation letters, essays, portfolio etc.
- ✗ Different schools have different criteria in awarding scholarships. Some scholarships are only based on merit while others are only based on need. In some cases, awards are based on a combination of both criteria.



FUNDING & SCHOLARSHIPS

- ✖ FastWeb - www.fastweb.com
- ✖ College Board Scholarship Search -
<http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearchss/welcome.jsp>
- ✖ International Education Financial Aid (IEFA) –
www.iefaf.org/



WHAT ARE COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES LOOKING FOR?

- ✗ Ability to make a difference.
- ✗ Insights into who you are as a person.
- ✗ Glimpses into your interests, talents, values, preferences, experiences, and dreams for the future.
- ✗ Insights on your thought process.
- ✗ A sample of your ability to communicate in writing—to write with clarity, coherence, and precision.
- ✗ Financial viability.



MOST INSTITUTIONS REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING

- ✖ Application fee
- ✖ Application
- ✖ Transcripts
- ✖ Test Scores
- ✖ Personal Essay
- ✖ Recommendation Letters
- ✖ Financial Statement of Support

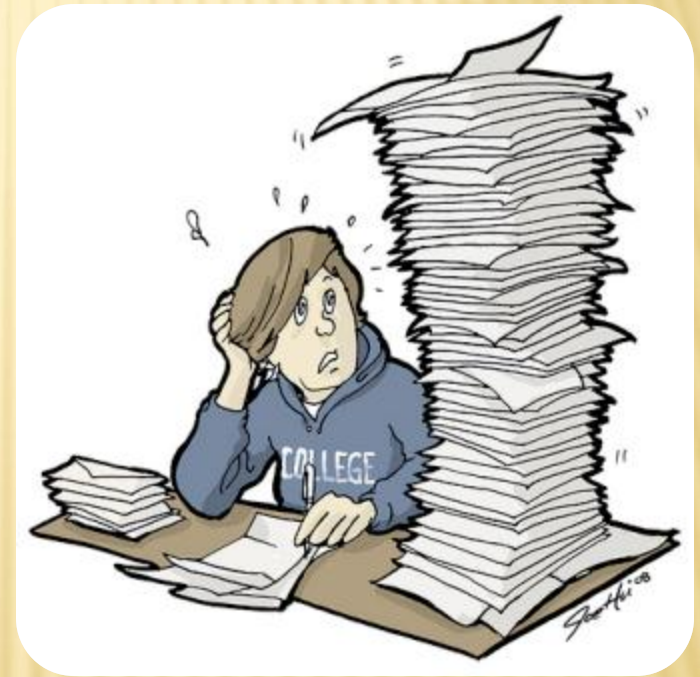


APPLICATION FEE

- ✖ Some schools application fees range from \$0 to \$125. Most schools have a feature to waive an application fee but the application fee is used to pre-screen candidates to see how serious they are and to limit applicants from applying to multiple places.
- ✖ In some cases admission counselors will waive the fee if the a student's guidance counselor asks for a waiver or if the admission counselor has determined that a prospective student is a strong applicant.

APPLICATION

- ✗ Some schools use the common application only. Other schools require their own application and many allow a combination of both.
- ✗ Some schools require that a paper application be submitted while others allow you to submit them via scan, fax or uploaded documents.
- ✗ Always check with the school counselor or review a school's website to see which method is the best to submit your application.
- ✗ Applications vary in length.



TRANSCRIPTS

- ✖ Most schools require that transcripts be translated into English and that a grading scale/conversion chart is provided. In some cases, schools might require an external evaluation of a student's transcript by an external company like WES or ECE. This is usually reserved for transfer students or applicants at the post graduate level.
- ✖ Some schools give credit for IB, A-level and AP courses. Many schools give extra points for these courses when determining a grade recalculation.
- ✖ Most schools are only looking at courses in English, Social Sciences, Science and Mathematics. Sometimes Humanities is taken into consideration as well as study in a foreign language.

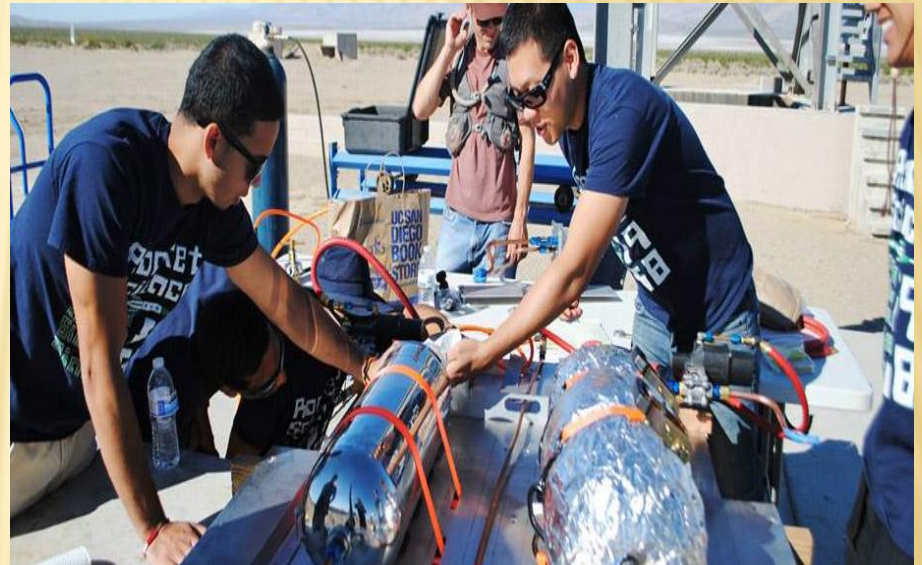
TEST SCORES

- ✗ Every school has different testing criteria. Some schools may require all or one of the following tests in order to be admitted for admission or for scholarship determination:
- ✗ IELTS
- ✗ TOEFL
- ✗ SAT or ACT (most schools only look at the critical reading and math portions of the SAT)
- ✗ SAT II (subject Test)
- ✗ GRE/GMAT
- ✗ Many schools have TOEFL/IELTS waivers if students are in an English curriculum, are in an IB program, have completed the WAEC or have scored high on their SAT test.
- ✗ It's important that you check the guidelines for each school before you apply and before you contact the admission counselor at the school you intend to apply to.



WHY A COLLEGE ESSAY?

- ✗ The essay provides colleges with a way to get to know you in a more personal way—different from mark sheets, recommendations, and standardized tests.
- ✗ The essay is something you control—use it to present a personal, interesting, thoughtful, and compelling view of you.



WRITING A PERSONAL ESSAY CONTINUED

Choosing a topic is one of the most difficult issues but it doesn't have to be.

✕ Possible topics:

- + Major accomplishments other than what's listed on your application
- + Qualities or skills that differentiate you from others
- + Something meaningful in your life
- + Your dreams for the future
- + How college will you prepare for your future
- + How do you expect to contribute to your home country with your US education

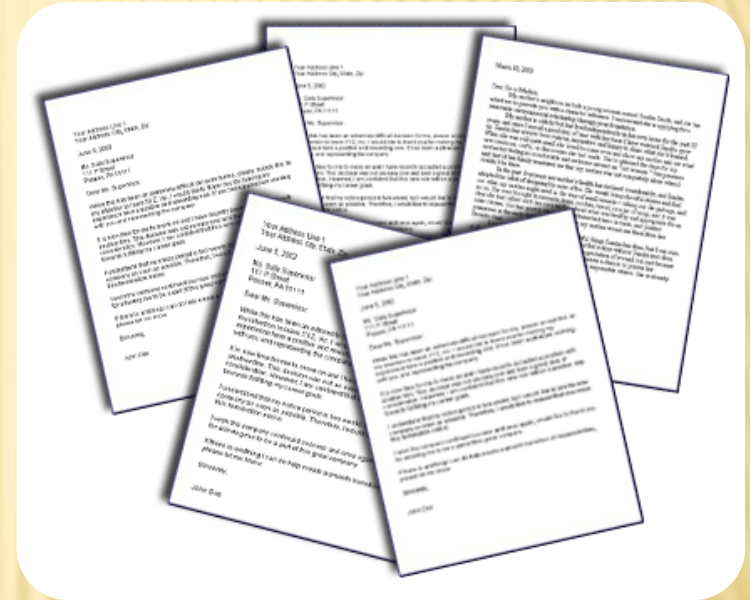
SOME TIPS FOR YOU

- ✗ Keep the focus narrow and personal
- ✗ Don't write a resume
- ✗ Don't use 500 words when 50 will do
- ✗ Be interesting—but more importantly, be yourself!



RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

- ✗ Most schools require one to three recommendation letters.
- ✗ The letters can be from school counselors, English teachers, guidance/college counselors or a community members.
- ✗ Some schools require that you use their recommendation forms, others do not.
- ✗ Pick teachers/people that will speak highly of you.



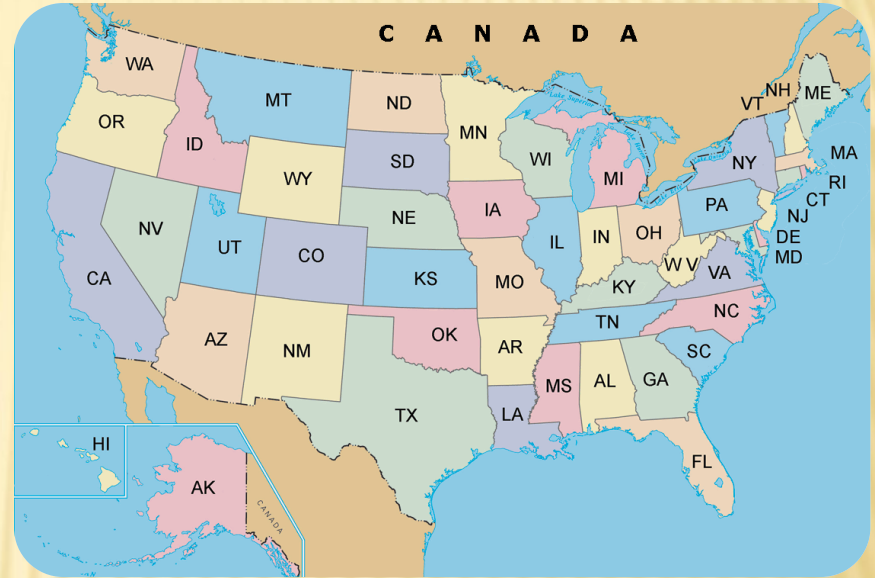
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- ✖ Some schools require a financial statement of support to make an acceptance decision, others do not. In any case it's important that you review cost and scholarships available to attend a certain school before making assumptions about scholarships or assistance they may or may not provide you.
- ✖ Your ability to support your US education will be a major factor in a school issuing you an I-20 that is required for you to obtain a student visa. It is important to talk to your family about what funds are available for you to pursue studies overseas.



IT IS POSSIBLE TO STUDY IN THE U.S.A.

- ✗ Follow some of these helpful hints to ensure that you turn in the best reflection of you and your situation to any college or university that you are looking to apply to.
- ✗ Remember to ask questions. We are advocates for you and we are here to help you through the process.
- ✗ We all want to make sure that the school you apply to is a good fit for you.



**We can't wait to see you in the
USA!**